

From: Jim Gottlieb
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 4:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to register my opinion on the proposed Microsoft settlement. I am not related to any of the parties in the case except that I am often forced to use Microsoft software in the course of my business.

I believe that the proposed settlement is severely flawed. I have personally observed Microsoft's illegal (as presented in the Findings of Fact) behavior and the settlement proposed does nothing to punish them for past abuses nor does it really give them discouragement from further extending their monopoly and using that monopoly to crush any and all competitors.

Armed with this knowledge that they can get away with anything, they will now continue this behavior with impunity. I could spend pages listing the companies they have set out to crush and have largely been successful at. They systematically give away product for free until other companies can no longer afford to stay in business. Then note their recent hefty price increases for the licenses for their products and be certain that this will continue too.

Competition is always good for the consumer. Sure, I would love for my company to have a monopoly in our line of business, but that's not how the free market system works. Our competitors keep us on our toes, forcing us to constantly innovate and to keep our prices in line. We don't try to kill our competition; we believe in fair play. Microsoft clearly does not, and they are not satisfied with a monopoly in the desktop computer market but are working towards their goal of "Windows Everywhere".

Imagine if all consumer electronics products were as buggy as Microsoft Windows. Despite what Microsoft would like you to believe, Microsoft has not been good for the American consumer. We need real competition in this market and at this point only the U.S. Government can effect this.

At the very least, force Microsoft to open their file formats. They use this not only to squeeze their competitors but to force users to constantly upgrade to newer versions of their product. Imagine if the car you bought two years ago was made incompatible with today's gasoline so you were forced to trade it in. This is what Microsoft does.

I am not knowledgeable enough to suggest many remedies, but I have read many good ideas in magazines and newspapers written by experts in the

computer industry and I urge you to listen to them.

Thank you for listening.